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Volume 17 Number 2 | October 1999

# city college news

A Bulletin For And By George Brown Employees

## Fall admission offers start Feb. 1 under new rules

**G**eorge Brown will start sending offers of admission to mature or non-secondary school applicants of full-time fall 2000 programs as soon as February 1, 2000.

That's three-and-a-half months earlier than offers in past years — a shift made possible by a recent decision by Ontario college presidents.

In addition, the new rules from the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) mean the college will also:

- start receiving applications a month earlier,
- give applicants as long as four months to confirm their program choice with the OCAS — up from just 10 days.
- treat applicants from secondary schools differently this year. Secondary school applicants will start to get offers of admission on March 31, 2000.

To ensure that secondary school applicants can still get into high demand programs, such as dental hygiene and nursing, George Brown will reserve seats for them based on current secondary school enrolment rates in each program.

Currently, only about 25 per cent of George Brown students come to college directly from secondary school, the majority are in the workforce.

For many years, applications for fall programs were sent to colleges by OCAS starting January 1. Then, successful

applicants had to wait until May 15, the offer mailing date for all colleges, for offers of admission.

Under the new rules, all applicants who get offers of admission will have until June 1 to confirm their program choice with OCAS. Applicants who are sent offers of admission after the last two weeks of May will get a shorter period for confirmation to OCAS.

If seats remain in programs after June 1, they will be offered to both non-secondary school and secondary-school applicants on a first-come-first-served basis.

The new dates were adopted to allow colleges to be competitive with Ontario universities, which start sending out offers of acceptance on March 10, 2000, according to Beth Bohnert of OCAS.

A communication plan is being developed to inform college staff about the changes in admission dates.

For information about the new applicant deadlines, please call George Brown's Registrar, Fahida Hanif, at (416) 415-4489.

### George Brown's new Fall 2000 full-time applicant deadlines

Deadline	New Date	Old Date
Applications are sent to George Brown electronically from the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS).	December 1 (of the previous year)	January 1
Deadline for qualified applicants to be considered on equal basis for admission.	February 1	March 31
First date offers of admission may be mailed to successful applicants who are not secondary school students.	February 1	May 15
First date offers of admission may be sent to applicants from secondary schools.	March 31	May 15
Deadline for confirming program college choice to OCAS.	June 1	10 days after date of offer of admission.



## from the president

Frank Sorochinsky

As this edition of City College News is published, we will be in the midst of the "Building Our Future: a Focus on Renewal" forums.

It is very encouraging that so many of you have come forward to participate in these forums. Your acknowledgement of urgency in the need for change bodes well for the future of our College.

It is important to note that the October 28 and 29 meetings do not exist in isolation. A second meeting will take place in November, where various volunteers will assist in developing an action plan based on the ideas which emerge from the October meetings. Staff who take part in the October meetings will be given the opportunity to volunteer to take part in this important task.

Following the November meeting an implementation committee will be formed. Members of this committee will be charged with facilitating and following-up on the action plan developed in November.\*

As you know, the October and November group change events are one part of a large-scale initiative aimed at creating a superior learning environment at George Brown College; one that will make us the college of choice in the Greater Toronto Area. There are already a number of other activities taking place under the "Change Project" umbrella, including divisional plans and diagnostic projects, all working towards this goal.

### The College must look at all aspects of who we are as a large urban institution serving a very diverse population.

Many of you are already involved in projects underway in your respective areas of the College, and I encourage each of you to take on leadership roles wherever possible.

There are a number of issues we need to consider throughout this change process. The College must look at all aspects of who we are as a large urban institution serving a very diverse population. Diversity has been a rich part of our past and is an essential ingredient for our future. The College values this diversity and needs to ensure that our systems, practices and regulations are fair and equitable for our students and staff. In order to address these important issues, a College diversity survey, "Diversity Counts," will be circulated January 17 – 22, 2000. Are we fostering an inclusive environment? How do we ensure that this is part of our future? I encourage you to share your thoughts, concerns and ideas with us, on these and other issues, by completing this important survey.

\*A special edition of City College News, covering the October 28 and 29 forums, will be published on November 3.

## Workshops help heal racial rifts in South Africa

Community Services professor Robert Dungey is helping South Africa to heal the effects of decades of government-supported racial and ethnic prejudice.

He traveled there recently to teach people how to lead Prejudice Reduction and Conflict Resolution workshops, a project hosted by the Gender Equity Unit of the University of the Western Cape with support from George Brown and the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI).

The train-the-trainer session attracted community leaders from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds including Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho, Indian, Afrikaner and English, as well as people of different genders, religions, class backgrounds, and sexual orientations.

"To debunk institutionalized gender oppression, we selected three females and three males as small group leaders for the training-of-trainers," writes Dungey about his experience. It was decided that the women would be the group leaders assisted by the men. The men were to follow the women's lead without question, even in places where they thought their ideas were better. In this way, we were modeling the support of women's leadership — a contradiction to the stereotype that men need to control and are better leaders.

"Following the training-of-trainers, a NCBI Western Cape team was established that can apply the Prejudice Reduction and Conflict Resolution workshop process as a preventative method, while at the same time respond to specific tensions and conflicts as they arise in South African communities. The aim of this work will be to bring healing and understanding to the groups in conflict, and to teach skills and build leadership links to prevent similar conflicts from erupting in the future.

"The team had an opportunity to practice delivering the Prejudice Reduction workshop in a non-governmental agency where there was polarization among black and white staff. These feelings were brought into our workshop and both groups were reluctant to speak to each other.

"Upon returning to Canada I received information from the executive director of the agency reflecting positive changes in the interactions between both groups. The factors that effected this change were the willingness of participants to bridge differences and the influence of our team leadership," says Dungey.

Hats off to Bob Dungey for this crucial work. For more information, Bob can be reached at ext. 2652.

# Books for Bosnia a success

**A** renewed faith in the power of a good idea; a sense of accomplishment for a goal attained; a feeling of solidarity from being part of a committed organization — this is how the George Brown Early Childhood Education (ECE) staff team feels today. That's because their three-week trip to Bosnia this summer was highly productive and also managed to exceed their expectations.

The Books for Bosnia initiative was multi-faceted. The team traveled to Tuzla, in the northeastern part of the war-torn country, at the invitation of the municipality. Team members — including George Brown ECE Co-ordinator Lynn Wilson, ECE Professors Karen Chandler and Zenat Janmohamed, and the Director of the ECE program at Ryerson Polytechnic University, June Pollard — set out to donate new picture books for donation to Bosnian child care centres. Also on their agenda were plans to conduct training workshops with front-line staff, focusing on curricula. Not only did they meet these goals, but the project has grown in new directions.

In response to staff requests, the team developed a series of training workshops, and also two full-day conferences for front-line ECE teachers, pediatric nurses and directors of non-government organizations. A total of 95 educators attended these workshops over a period of three weeks. The team viewed the Bosnian people as warm and generous, and found many commonalities with the teachers. "Despite the fact that the (Bosnian) teachers had not been paid in four months,"

reports Lynn, "their commitment and concern for the children in their care was evident in all of the centres we visited."

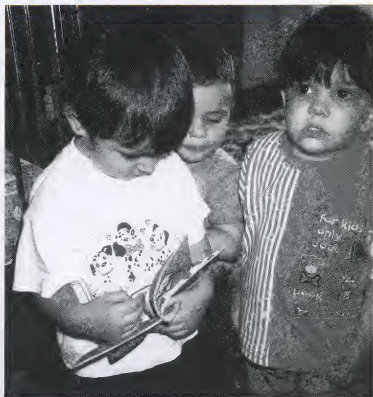
The team also made some important links with the education community, and built stronger connections with local non-government organizations

**"Sharing the books and teaching materials was one of the most rewarding experiences of the trip."**  
—Lynn Wilson

working to support children and their families. In fact, they have been invited by the Mayor and the Director of Social Services in Tuzla to return, so they can further develop this ECE project. In addition, plans are underway to co-ordinate a foreign professional development initiative: if all goes according to schedule, three educators from Tuzla will visit Toronto for two weeks in January 2000.

Lynn Wilson would like to thank the many members of the George Brown community who supported the Books for Bosnia project. According to Lynn, "sharing the books and teaching materials was one of the most rewarding experiences of the trip. Staff and children were incredibly appreciative."

The pre-primary program at Mramor Public School, one of the facilities visited by the staff, has 43 children, aged five and six, but "very limited resources" says Lynn.



Children at a childcare centre in Tuzla, Bosnia, look at a book donated through the Books for Bosnia program sponsored by staff of George Brown's Early Childhood Education program.

Located in one of the poorest sections of Tuzla, children often come to school without proper winter clothing, which severely limits their time for outdoor play.

In order for a Tuzlan child to attend school for one school year (10 months), his or her family must pay 100 dm (Deutsch Marks) — equivalent to \$86 CDN. The money goes toward providing lunches and purchasing teaching supplies. The sad reality is that many of the families in the community cannot afford this expense. The war took the lives of most of the men and young boys, leaving behind impoverished women who are doubly burdened with illiteracy and the lack of necessary employment skills and opportunities to support their families.

There are many ways in which George Brown staff can continue to support this project:

- Make a donation to the George Brown College Foundation. All funds collected will go toward sending books and teaching resources to the child care centres in Tuzla;
- Support the "Mitten Trees" on campus in the upcoming months. Warm mittens, hats, scarves and socks will be collected for shipment to Mramor Public School;

Contribute \$86 to the George Brown College Foundation (call Margot Sheppard at ext. 2405) and support one child in Mramor Public School for one year.

For more information about the Books for Bosnia project, call Lynn Wilson at ext. 2340.

# Microelectro

## opens at Casa

**G**azing through a high powered microscope, Mark Tarsitano carefully touches the tip of an electric soldering iron to one of the tiny wires that extends from a computer chip sitting on a small green circuitboard. In an instant, the molten metal solder flows around the wire, and then hardens, sealing it in place.

Mark takes the circuitboard and inspects the soldering job. Satisfied with his work, he moves the circuitboard again under the microscope and reaches for the soldering iron, ready to connect another wire. It's painstaking work that requires steady hands and intense concentration.

"It took two months to get the hang of all the equipment," says Mark.

As a student in George Brown's Centre for Advanced Microelectronics at Casa Loma Campus, Mark is learning skills that industry experts say will make him a sought-after employee as Canada's microelectronics industry grows quickly over the next few years.

Mark's soldering skill, on display in the Centre's Surface Mount lab, is just one aspect of a highly diversified industry that manufactures computerized components for consumer and industrial uses that vary from hearing aids to cars.

The Centre also has manufacturing labs with automated equipment that print circuitboards and attach computer chips in the right places.

At the official opening of the Centre on September 24, Mark and other students smiled as the executive director of the Strategic Microelectronics Consortium spoke about the need for qualified staff in the field.

"Employers are anxiously waiting (for graduates)," said Iain Scott. "...The industry is poised for explosive growth over the next five years."

The single biggest barrier to growing from a \$4-billion industry this year to an estimated \$22-billion industry in 2004 would be a shortage of staff, said Scott.

"This centre is a critical element of our strategy (for growth)," he said.



Microelectronics student Mark Tarsitano uses a powerful microscope to solder tiny wires connecting computer chips to a circuitboard.

Scott, Tim Luke of Alpha Metals, who chairs the Centre's advisory board, and George Brown President Frank Sorochinsky, officially opened the centre by putting a circuitboard through a machine and automatically soldered computer chips to it.

In a short address, Sorochinsky thanked advisory committee members, industry and government partners, and college staff for their contributions to the Centre. He said Faculty of Technology Dean Joy McKinnon, who took a lead in establishing the centre, should be commended.

For more information about the Centre, call Erin Agnew at ext. 4834.



# Electronics Centre

## Loma Campus



We're in the chip business! George Brown's new Centre for Advanced Microelectronics was officially opened on September 24 with the production of a circuitboard. From left: Iain Scott, Executive Director of the Strategic Microelectronics Consortium, George Brown President Frank Sorochinsky, and Tim Luke of Alpha Metals, who is chair of the Centre's Advisory Committee.

# Liz Antunes joins Board as student rep

In the last issue of *City College News* we profiled three members of the college's Board of Governors. Elizabeth Antunes joined the Board this fall as student representative for the 1999/2000 year.

Elizabeth Antunes, "Liz" to her friends, might not have been clear about what she wanted to do right out of high school, but all that has changed since she started in the Human Resources Management (HRM) program at George Brown College. She has a direction for her career, a passion for politics, and a desire to use her position on the Student Association (VP, St. James campus) and the Board of Governors to effect change. After graduating from high school, Antunes worked for Statistics Canada as a translator — she speaks French, Portuguese and Spanish as well as English — and data operator during the census season. At the same time, she was completing a part-time certificate, "Diverse Abilities and Challenges Specialist," at Centennial College. When her contract with Statistics Canada was up, she saw a flyer for the HRM program at George Brown and she knew this was for her.

The diversity of the HRM program suits Antunes. "When I graduate, I can work in recruitment, training, unions, benefits...but what I'd really like to do is training, developing people's employment skills.

Eventually, I'd like to have my own business," she explains. Joining the Student Association acted as a catalyst for Antunes' interest in politics. In her first year, she saw the benefits of belonging to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and actively worked to bring them on campus. The SA is now a strong advocate of the CFS

and involved with many of their projects. For Antunes, what began quietly has sparked a commitment that extends far beyond the College. She is on the Ontario NDP Youth Executive, is the Ontario Co-Commissioner for the Access Ability Action Committee for CFS, and worked on the Priscilla, Queen of the North tour that promoted a hotline for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth. She is currently involved in the Safe Park demonstrations for more hostel space for homeless people. Surprisingly, says Antunes, "no-one else in my family has any political ambitions whatsoever."

Antunes is strongly determined to present student needs to the Board of Governors. She laughs, remembering, "I think the SA reps have traditionally been quiet, but I'm quite assertive. At the very first meeting, I asked questions and spoke up, and I think it surprised other Board members. But I want them to understand what we can bring to the table." Antunes brings to that table over three years of experience with student government, knowledge of the changes she has seen, an awareness of student concerns. She joined every committee reporting to the Board of Governors in order to ensure that the student voice could be heard on issues such as tuition fees and academic regulations.

When she has a minute, Antunes spends time with friends, listening to music, rollerblading, watching movies and football, writing, and — her other passion — answering e-mail (she has 11 accounts).

She can be reached at ext. 2455.

## city college people

Graphic Design professor Joe Devellano was one of the winners in the Digital Imagery category of a recent photography and illustration contest sponsored by Applied Arts magazine. After years of working in oils and watercolour, Devellano has developed new techniques of painting with pixels instead of a brush. His recent digital work has been shown at galleries in Ontario and New York City. "My images of male and female, young and old, fringe and mainstream groups are layered to create hybrid portraits of humanity," writes Devellano.

Another winner, Graphic Design student Mike Levy, was one of the finalists in a national packaging design contest. The challenge: repackage iced-tea bottles. Levy's solution: a sleek silver bottle with large lettering on it.



Joe Devellano's recent award-winning digital work.

### New Academic Staff

Linda Groll, Faculty of Community Services and Health Sciences; Karen de Prinse, Faculty of Community Services and Health Sciences; Judith Ercolino, Faculty of Community Services and Health Sciences; Adel Esayed, Faculty of Technology; Vaughan Smith, Faculty of Technology; Tatiana Tumakov, Faculty of Technology; Kathryn Payne, Faculty of Community Services and Health Sciences; Biljana Vucetic, Faculty of Technology

### New Administration Staff

Wendy Lang-Dalby, Administrative Assistant to the Vice-President Academic, Office of the President; Rita Rathod, Manager, Admissions and Call Centre, Registrar's Office; Lilly Wang, Manager, Database and Scheduling, Registrar's Office

### New Support Staff

Elisa Alves, ECE, Faculty of Community Services and Health Sciences; Debbie Bondfield, Technician — Allied Health, Faculty of Community Services and Health Sciences; Fernanda Caldarella, Secretary, Information Technology, Faculty of Technology; Elizabeth Dantas, Clerk, Registrar's Office; Christina Ku, Support Services Officer, Academic Bridging; Michael MacNeil, First Aid Attendant, Human Resources; Munir Noormohamed, Clerk, Registrar's Office; Sofia Paredes, Clerk, Registrar's Office; Jennifer Yearwood, Clerk, Academic Records, Registrar's Office

### Staff on the Move

Sue Ascenzi, Administrative Assistant, Faculty of Business and Creative Arts; James Brouwer, Technologist, Centre for Continuous Learning; Giancarlo Grossi, Clerk, Bookstores; Tim Hawley, Driver, Facilities Management; Sheldon Hargrove, Clerk, Centre for Continuous Learning; Beth Legault, Clerk, Centre for Continuous Learning; Denise Pontone, Support Services Officer, Centre for Continuous Learning; Jim Puntillo, Clerk, Bookstores

### Retiring from the College

Dorothy Ellis, Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism; Carol Vaillancourt, Registrar's Office

### Leaving the College

Notetaker Kimberley Benoit, Student Affairs; ECE Worker Anna Blaszczyk, Community Services and Health Sciences; Co-ordinator Terry Spier, Community Services and Health Sciences; Professor Mary Savona, Faculty of Business and Creative Arts; Call Centre Co-ordinator Carol Ann MacDonald, Registrar's Office.

### Corrections:

Ylber Ramadan and Mark Gritoph's names were misspelled in our last issue. Professor Rhonda Sandberg, Centre for Continuous Learning chair Kathleen Abbott, and Interdisciplinary Studies chair Kay Oxford were given incorrect titles in our last issue.

Spotlight on...

# Anya Wood

*First in an ongoing series of interviews with the staff of The City College.*

**A**nya Wood joined George Brown College just over three months ago as the new Chair, Information Technology at the Casa Loma campus. We asked her to share a few minutes with us so that we could introduce her to the George Brown community.



Anya Wood is chair of George Brown's School of Information Technology in the Faculty of Technology.

#### My life before George Brown ...

- was spent mainly on the East Coast. I've worked in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Ontario
- included attaining a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Philosophy and Political Science, as well as an Applied Information Technology diploma

#### Before joining George Brown, I...

- taught at a local community college in Nova Scotia
- spent almost eight years in the Information Technology (IT) and education field, primarily at the ITI Institute in Toronto and Moncton, New Brunswick. While there, I held positions as an Instructor of various programming languages (i.e., Basic, PowerBuilder,

FoxPro), Supervisor of the lab faculty, and Director of Program Delivery, and Quality Assurance (responsible for creating, implementing and evaluating initiatives designed to ensure high quality instruction and program delivery across all campuses)

#### I joined GBC because...

- of the diversity of programming, and the chance to work in an environment where there would be exposure to other educational disciplines
- of the chance to look at programs such as Fashion Design (for instance) and see how Information

Technology can enhance the delivery or execution of their curriculum

#### Three months into the position, I...

- am starting to see the long-term growth potential of the IT area, and the excellent work done by the GBC faculty

#### I bring to GBC...

- a team-based, problem-solving approach to the challenge of delivering quality education
- a goal-oriented focus to my work that helps me empower staff and motivate change

#### In my spare time, I like to...

- try new things! sculpting, metalwork, new courses (currently finishing Masters in Distance Education), new restaurants, you name it.

#### I'm happiest about...

- finding a career area – education and information technology – that excites and interests me
- achieving a balance between my career and personal life, that lets me give more than enough time to work and yet allows me to experience life outside of the College as well.

Oh yes...Wood's favourite colour is blue.

Anya Wood can be reached at ext. 4027 or e-mail [awood@gbrown.on.ca](mailto:awood@gbrown.on.ca).

# college calendar

## NOVEMBER

1

**College Information Day**  
Ontario colleges, including George Brown, set up displays and give out information to prospective students in the new lobby, St. James Campus, 200 King St. E. A student panel discusses college life; workshops on student success and financial assistance. Sponsored by the Communications and Marketing Department. For information, call Liaison Officer Peggy Bloom at ext. 2267.

10

**10 and 15 Year Staff Reception** The annual Employee Service Recognition Awards are being held on Wednesday, November 10, 1999, for staff who will be celebrating their 10th or 15th year of full-time employment at the college in 1999. The awards will be presented at a wine and cheese reception with college president Frank Sorochinsky. Staff who believe they are eligible for an award but have not received an invitation from Human Resources should call Roberta Oullahan at ext. 4473.

3-25

**Professional Development Series** The Fall Professional Development series Learning Challenges and Opportunities includes the following sessions: Time Leadership, Nov. 3; Kick the Meeting Habit, Nov. 4; Downsize Your Stress, Nov. 5; Emotional Intelligence, Nov. 11; Communicating with Confidence, Nov. 18; Behavioural Interviews, Nov. 17; Effective Presentations, Nov. 23; Conflict Management, Nov. 24; Lunch & Learn Series: Tai Chi, Nov. 2; Chiropractic Care for the Stress of Life, Nov. 9; EAP Information Session, Nov. 25. For further information, or to register, call Linda Purser at ext. 4661.

10-20

**George Brown Theatre presents The Crucible by Arthur Miller** Shows will be at the George Brown Theatre Building, 530 King St. E. Tickets are \$10 and can be ordered from Larry LaForet at (416) 415-2167.

11

**College Council Meeting**  
College Council meets in the boardroom at 500 MacPherson Ave. starting at 8:45 a.m. All staff and students are welcome to attend.

17

**School of Business Information Session** The School of Business will hold a free program information session on Wednesday, November 17, 1999 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the St. James Campus, 200 King St. E. The public is invited to meet teachers in fields such as management, accounting, marketing and financial planning, and explore business careers at the free event. For information, ext. 2211.

## Upcoming events:

## DECEMBER

11

**Annual George Brown Staff Children's Party** The organizing committee is looking for volunteers to help set up and clean up after this year's party at Casa Loma Campus. Call Rachele Maciel, at ext. 2474 for information.

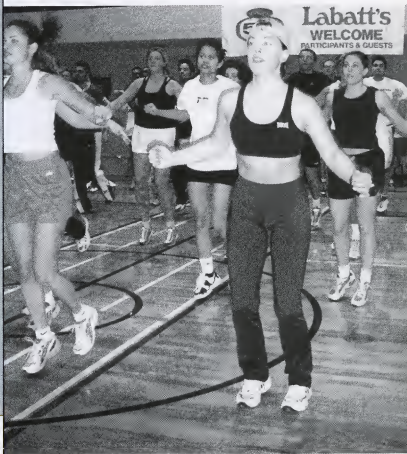
11 & 18

**George Brown Theatre presents The Paper Bag Princess**, based on stories by Robert Munsch. Shows will be at Hart House Theatre, 7 Hart House Circle, University of Toronto. Tickets are \$7 for the general public and \$5 for George Brown staff and students. For tickets call the Hart House Theatre box office, at (416) 978-8658.

**Christmas Day Dinner Volunteers Needed** George Brown needs 80 to 100 volunteers to help cook, serve and clean up at the Christmas dinner held at Seigfried's Dining Room. More than 600 underprivileged people are expected to attend. Volunteers are needed between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. on December 25. Call ext. 2239, and leave your name and phone number.



Seniors Association Award winners: Activation Co-ordinator students benefited again this year from the growing generosity of the George Brown College Seniors Association. The Association gave three \$500 awards to second year students and all second year students were given \$50 bookstore vouchers. From left, Activation Co-ordinator program co-ordinator Barbara Librad, student award winners Heather Greasley-Jones, Rosanne Figueira, Heather Dickson, Toby Issacs of the Seniors Association, and Michael Cooke, Dean of the Faculty of Community Services and Health Sciences.



Exercising for athletics - About 150 George Brown staff and students took part in the annual fundraising Aerobathon held at Casa Loma on October 20. Participants collected pledges or paid an entrance fee to raise money for athletic scholarships and team expenses.

**THE CITY COLLEGE**  
**GEORGE BROWN**

citycollegenews is published monthly for the George Brown College community by the Communications and Marketing Department.

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